



*Flying H Youth Ranch 370 Flying H Loop Naches, WA 98937*

Dear Flying H Friends,

Once again we enjoyed hosting the parents for our fall Family Resolve October 9-11. By 4:00

Friday afternoon most of the parents had arrived and were attending parent/teacher conferences. "Choose Life" (Deut.30:19) was the theme for the weekend, and the weekend was lively with conferences, teachings, DVD's of activities, presentations, staff panels, apple pressing, visiting, and wonderful meals. Our interactive group session with parents and staff without the boys (we call it Nuts & Bolts) continues to rate high among the parents. Parents helping parents is very hopeful as so many find themselves in similar situations.

Our teaching team included a former parent Ted Gregoire who spoke on life as an adventure. I appreciated that he pointed out that mankind is designed and commanded to work—before the fall even! He and his wife Judy, son Jon Michael (FHYR graduate), and daughter Carolyn also served with meal preparation, service, and clean up. We were blessed to have long-time Flying H friend Chuck Rogers share his testimony with us and speak of the wonderful miracle of his new birth so many years ago. He and his wife Jamie also served us so well in the kitchen and behind the scenes. Staff Clay Griffith wrapped up the weekend with his challenge to us Sunday morning to choose Jesus because Jesus is life.



In order to free the staff to meet with families in conferences, at meals, and in their homes; four couples took over the meal and cleanup duties. What a gift they are to us. Three of the families (Terri & Cindy Benjamin, Chuck & Jamie Rogers, Wes & Betty Herman) hail from the same church in Vancouver, and the other family I mentioned before—the Gregoires who participated in past Resolves as a family of a young man in residence here. Judy's cinnamon rolls Sunday morning were winners! All these folks also made themselves available to current families for counsel, advice, and fellowship.



Staying in ranch family homes, the parents were afforded the opportunity to become better acquainted with certain staff. Speaking from our personal perspective (Frieds), we were able to have two families with us who had much the same situation with their adoptive boys. They encouraged each other a great deal, and we listened and learned a lot. Our

compassion and resolve to help is deepened as we witness the families' pain and struggles.



All the families leave on Sunday morning with their sons for a week of "Home Assignment." Therefore, much of the conversation



throughout the weekend concerned parents managing the week ahead. We asked that they keep ranch rules as much as possible rather than letting the guys do whatever they want. That in itself caused great consternation to some because they saw the week away as their vacation from everything. Not so, and we asked the parents to record the attitudes and behaviors of their sons throughout the week. Happily, most returned having earned high marks.

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We asked the families to evaluate the weekend, and the following are some comments:

"We are not alone."

"Most beneficial to us is knowing that the staff and we can work together to help our son."

"It was good to discuss home expectations in Nuts & Bolts. I have been trying to establish clearer boundaries our home."

"It was good to consider and choose life. It was an appropriate subject to speak life into each one of us."

"I enjoyed the low-key visiting time with others."

"The Nuts & Bolts session was fantastic. I was surprised and moved by the honesty of parents and caretakers."

Finally, on a completely different note, pray with us for Joe Kennedy, the Bremerton coach currently in the news for praying after games. Joe was a resident here in 1985-86. You can't imagine how blessed we are to have one of our own taking this stand for Christ. When I asked him how to pray for him, he said, "Pray that I keep Him the focus of this and not me." He also said, "I feel weird about all the support I've been getting. I'm just a ranch boy who finally found God. --Patty Fried

### **Prayer Requests:**

- The father of one of our boys was in a very serious car accident. Please pray for his recovery from his injuries.
- Pray for the boys as they continue on in the program. That they would be working on the things that brought each one of them here.

### **Praises:**

- Our fall "Home Assignment" went well. All the boys returned.
- Our fall staff retreat went well.
- The Wagner (Richard & Tricia) family has been accepted as our new Administrator. Please pray for their support to come in quickly.

